



UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
United States Patent and Trademark Office
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
10/606,180	06/26/2003	Kazuhito Kojima	21776-00033-US2	1499
30678	7590	12/27/2005		
CONNOLLY BOVE LODGE & HUTZ LLP SUITE 800 1990 M STREET NW WASHINGTON, DC 20036-3425				
			EXAMINER HARPER, LEON JONATHAN	
			ART UNIT 2166	PAPER NUMBER

DATE MAILED: 12/27/2005

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary	Application No. 10/606,180	Applicant(s) KOJIMA ET AL.	
	Examiner Leon J. Harper	Art Unit 2166	

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) OR THIRTY (30) DAYS, WHICHEVER IS LONGER, FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 26 June 2003.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 16-24 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 16-24 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☒ The drawing(s) filed on 26 June 2003 is/are: a) ☒ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☒ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
1. ☒ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).
- * See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|---|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413) |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This office action is in response to the application 10606180 filed on 6/26/2003.

Claims 16-24 are pending.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 16,17 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by US 5 903 893 (hereinafter Kleewein).

As for claim 1 Kleewein discloses: table extraction means for extracting one table including columns that store data to be retrieved from a plurality of tables (See figure 1 "if in command causes extraction then the processor of the computer is the extraction means also see column 4 lines 36-38 "In" predicate extracting for merge/join); column exclusion means for excluding columns of the table extracted by said table extraction means and columns on other tables which store the same data contents as data contents of the columns on the extracted table from columns to be extracted in subsequent processing (See column 4 lines 36-39 In procedure excludes all data that is not in the query), and table joining means for joining the tables extracted in turn by said

Art Unit: 2166

table extraction means when the processing of said table extraction means and the processing of said column exclusion means have been repeated till all the columns including data to be retrieved are analyzed (See column 6 lines 45-48 "merge join feature").

As for claim 17, the rejection of claim 16 is incorporated, and further Kleewein discloses: wherein said table extraction means extracts one table including a largest number of columns which store data to be retrieved from the plurality of tables (See column 5 lines 40-45).

Claim 20 is a method claim corresponding to the database system of claim 16 and is thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 16.

As for claim 21, the rejection of claim 20 is incorporated, and further wherein upon exceeding one table from the plurality of tables, one table including a largest number of columns that store data to be retrieved is extracted (See column 5 lines 40-45).

As for claim 22, the rejection of claim 20 is incorporated, and further Kleewein discloses: wherein data is retrieved from the one or more joined tables (See column 4 lines 55- 59).

Claim 23 is a computer readable medium claim corresponding to the database system of claim 16 and is thus rejected for the same reasons set forth in the rejection of claim 16.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

The factual inquiries set forth in *Graham v. John Deere Co.*, 383 U.S. 1, 148 USPQ 459 (1966), that are applied for establishing a background for determining obviousness under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) are summarized as follows:

1. Determining the scope and contents of the prior art.
2. Ascertaining the differences between the prior art and the claims at issue.
3. Resolving the level of ordinary skill in the pertinent art.
4. Considering objective evidence present in the application indicating obviousness or nonobviousness.

Claims 18,19 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Kleewein as applied to claim 16 above, and further in view of US 5937 409 (hereinafter Wetherbee).

As for claim 18, the rejection of claim 16 is incorporated, and further Kleewein discloses: joining of the plurality of tables (See column 6 lines 45-48 "merge join

Art Unit: 2166

feature”) and extracting tables (See column 4 lines 35-40). Kleewein differs from the claimed invention in that metadata management means for collecting and managing metadata which pertain to joining of the plurality of tables, and wherein said table extraction means extracts the table on the basis of the metadata stored in said metadata management means are not explicitly indicated. Wetherbee however, discloses a metadata management means for collecting and managing metadata (See column 4 lines 60-64 “relational mapper = metadata management means), and metadata stored in said metadata management means (See column 5 lines 2-5). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teachings of Wetherbee into the system of Kleewein. The modification would have been obvious because having metadata that describes that objects or information contained in the tables allows the user to store personalized information about the information in the database.

As for claim 19, the rejection of claim 16 is incorporated, and further Kleewein discloses wherein data is retrieved from the tables, which are extracted in turn and joined by said table extraction means (See column 4 lines 36-39 In procedure also retrieves data based on query).

Kleewein differs from the claimed invention in that retrieval means for retrieving objects in accordance with a retrieval key is not explicitly disclosed. Wetherbee however does disclose retrieval means for retrieving objects in accordance with a retrieval key

(See column 9 lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teachings of Wetherbee into the system of Kleewein. The modification would have been obvious because having a retrieval key allows for faster information retrieval because the user does not have to submit a query when they know which record they want.

As for claim 24, the rejection of claim 23 is incorporated, and further Kleewein discloses wherein said program makes the computer further implement the function of retrieving from the tables extracted and joined by said table extraction means (See column 4 lines 36-39 In procedure also retrieves data based on query).

Kleewein differs from the claimed invention in that retrieval means for retrieving objects in accordance with a retrieval key is not explicitly disclosed. Wetherbee however does disclose retrieval means for retrieving objects in accordance with a retrieval key (See column 9 lines 1-5). It would have been obvious to an artisan of ordinary skill in the pertinent art to have incorporated the teachings of Wetherbee into the system of Kleewein. The modification would have been obvious because having a retrieval key allows for faster information retrieval because the user does not have to submit a query when they know which record they want.


Information

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Leon J. Harper whose telephone number is 571-272-0759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:30AM - 4:00Pm.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Hosain T. Alam can be reached on 571-272-3978. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

LJH
Leon J. Harper
December 15, 2005


MOHAMMAD ALI
PRIMARY EXAMINER